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98TH CONGRESS
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SENATE

REPORT
No. 98-200

AUTHORIZING THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS TO STUDY THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE BOOK IN THE FUTURE

JULY 28 (legislative day, JULY 25), 1983.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MATHIAS, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. Con. Res. 59]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, having considered an original concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 59) to authorize the Librarian of Congress to study the changing role of the book in the future, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the concurrent resolution be agreed to.

This original Senate concurrent resolution is an outgrowth of conversations between Chairman Mathias and the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Daniel J. Boorstin, regarding a congressional mandate authorizing the Librarian of Congress, through the Library's Center for the Book, to conduct a timely study of the changing role of the book in the future. This study would focus on the dramatic new electronic technologies affecting how we create, disseminate, and use the knowledge and experience traditionally published in the printed book.

The language of this concurrent resolution authorizes the Librarian to seek the advice and assistance of persons highly knowledgeable about the role of the book in civilization and the influence of new technologies on the further future of the book, including authors, educators, publishers, librarians, scientists, and individuals in computer technology, industry, and labor. This resolution further specifies that the Librarian of Congress should transmit the results of such study not later than December 1, 1984.

This study would cost the legislative branch no funds. The Librarian and the Center for the Book are confident that with the formal authority of a concurrent resolution of the Congress, private funds will be donated to the Library to support the work of this study. The Library of Congress and its Center for the Book already have statutory authority to accept private funds to support their on-going work.

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